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REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION OF JUNE 4, 2004

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is a Reply to the Final Office Action mailed June 4, 2004 ("Final Action"), which set a shortened statutory period of time of three months for a reply. If, however, any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 23-0280. A duplicate copy of this page is enclosed for that purpose.

Introductory Comments begin on page 2 of this Reply.

Listing of the Claims begins on page 3 of this Reply.

Remarks begin on page 15 of this Reply.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

A. Correction of Correspondence Address

Applicants respectfully request that the correspondence address be changed to the individual and address listed below:

Jeffrey C. Nichols, Esq.
Corporate Counsel, Law Department
BAXTER INTERNATIONAL INC.
One Baxter Parkway
Mail Stop DF3-2E
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 948-4922

B. Acceptance of Corrected Drawing and Entry of Amendments in Immediate Prior Reply

In each Reply to the last two Office Actions, Applicants respectfully requested acceptance of a corrected Figure 1, as well as entry of certain amendments to the specification (*see* Reply to the Office Action of April 3, 2003, and Reply to the Office Action of December 9, 2003). Because the Final Action does not state whether such acceptance or entry was performed, a timely notice of same is earnestly solicited.

C. Interview of July 6, 2004

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.133 and MPEP § 713.04, Applicants faxed their summary of the interview on July 9, 2004, to the United States Patent & Trademark Office. Their summary is incorporated herein by reference. Applicants thank the Examiners for their time.